

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Final Office Action October 22, 2002 and the Advisory Action of February 11, 2003 have been received and contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 6-11 are pending. Claim 6 has been amended. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner approved the drawing corrections. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 6-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dingwall et al. (US Pat. No. 5,307,188). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 6 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 6 recites a combination of elements including wherein the lower polarizer includes a light shielding film formed in a rectangular shape along a peripheral portion of the lower polarizer. None of the cited references teaches or suggests each and every feature of the claims.

The opaque surround (for example, a black mask) 235 of Dingwall et al. appears to be disposed on the whole surface of the "lower" polarizer 237b and has three light shutters 231 (openings) in at least Figure 3 for the color patches 233a, 233b, and 233c. See column 7, line 60 to column 9, line 45.

However, in the present application, the light shielding film 15 has a rectangular shape along a peripheral portion of the lower polarizer 12, as recited in claim 6, and as shown in at least Figures 6 and 7. The light shielding film 15 in the present application is only formed on a periphery of the lower polarizer 12, not on the whole surface. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

Moreover, claims 7-11 are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on claim 6, which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7371. All correspondence should be sent to the address listed below.

Application No.: 09/748,277

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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